

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 42, amend claims 31-41, 43, and 44, and insert new claim 45, as follows:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) An implantable A retainer system, deliverable via an elongate tubular delivery device for retaining vaso-occlusive device in an aneurysm, comprising:

(a) a core wire having a proximal end and a distal end,

(b) a joint extending between the distal end of the core wire and at least one array element, said joint being electrolytically severable upon application of a suitable current to said joint, said joint being comparatively more susceptible to electrolytic severability than said core wire and said at least one array element,

(c) a vaso-occlusive device; and

(e d) a retainer assembly configured for retaining said vaso-occlusive device in said aneurysm, said retainer assembly comprising said at least one array element, said retainer assembly having a first delivery shape when retained within said an elongate tubular delivery device and having a distal delivery end and a proximal delivery end, and a second deployed shape configured for retaining a vaso-occlusive device in the aneurysm, said second deployed shape being different than said first delivery shape when said retainer assembly is not retained within said tubular delivery device and having a distal deployed end and a proximal deployed end, when outside said elongate tubular delivery device said at least one array element extending outwardly from said joint and

~~having a contour that resembles a shape of the aneurysm in said second deployed shape, and wherein after electrolytic severance from said core wire said retainer assembly includes a residual joint.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein said core wire is covered with an electrical insulation layer from near its proximal end to near its distal end.
33. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises platinum.
34. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises tantalum.
35. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises stainless steel.
36. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises a super-elastic alloy.
37. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein at least a portion of said at least one array element is covered by radio-opaque material.

38. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 37, wherein said radio-opaque material is platinum.

39. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein when said retainer assembly is in said second deployed shape, each of said at least one array element terminates remotely from said joint.

40. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31-45, wherein said retainer assembly has a proximal deployed end when in said deployed shape, and when said retainer assembly is in said second deployed shape said residual joint is distal to said proximal deployed end.

41. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31-45, wherein said retainer assembly has a proximal deployed end when in said deployed shape, and when said retainer assembly is in said second deployed shape, and said residual joint is on said proximal deployed end.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) The implantable retainer system of claim 31, wherein said secondary deployed shape approximates the shape of a vascular said aneurysm.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable~~ retainer system of claim 31, wherein said retainer assembly encloses a volume and wherein said retainer contains a ~~helically wound~~ said vaso-occlusive device in said volume.

45. (New) The retainer system of claim 31, wherein said retainer assembly includes a residual joint after an electrolytic severance from said core wire.

PATENT
(269/084)
204730-7013182001

Applicant submits that a complete listing of all the claims has been provided with this response. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Dated: 9/25/03

By: Gerald Chan
Gerald Chan
Reg. No. 51,541

Bingham McCutchen LLP
Three Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, California 94111
(650) 849-4960